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Your essential daily news THURSDAY, DECEMBER 10, 2015 High -2°C/Low -6°C Overcast



KEVIN TUONG/FOR METRO

BEING SANTA FOR HIRE

He's Saint Nick on the quick — but by Dec. 24, he's beat
metroNEWS

Distracted drivers to face demerits

TRANSPORTATION
Province keen on keeping all eyes on road

Ryan Tumilty
Metro|Edmonton

If you're caught driving while distracted in 2016 you will earn

demerit points on your licence, as the NDP moves to further encourage people to keep their eyes on the road.

Transportation Minister Brian Mason played coy on the details, but a cabinet order released Wednesday revealed three demerit points will be added to the already-existing \$287 fine for distracted driving as of Jan. 1, 2016.

"We will be having an announcement tomorrow where

"It's a leading cause of accidents and the government certainly wants to do something about it."

Transportation Minister Brian Mason

about it, but the details will be available tomorrow."

In October, Metro Calgary reported Alberta has seen roughly 27,000 distracted driving tickets issued each year and that between 20 and 30 per cent of collisions are now attributed to distracted driving.

Edmonton police Chief Rod Knecht has frequently called for adding demerits to the law in order to crack down on people

distracted by cellphones and other things while driving.

He was unavailable Wednesday but previously said the fine was not enough to change behaviour.

"I believe demerits will make the difference. It will be interesting to see and follow this," he said. "People may not pay attention to the money, but they will pay attention to the demerits."



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IN BRIEF

Third man charged in St. Albert homicide

Edmonton police say all three men allegedly responsible for the death of a man in St. Albert in the spring have now been arrested.

Trevor Keith Deleeuw, 25, was found dead of gunshot wounds on a road in St. Albert on April 6.

On Nov. 30, Shayne Fry, 28, was arrested at a residence in Ontario for an outstanding warrant for second-degree murder in relation to Deleeuw's death. The Edmonton Police Service first arrested David Klassen, 26, on Sept. 1.

Police have charged Joseph Charron, 26, with second-degree murder, unlawful use of a weapon, assault with a weapon and disguise with intent.

METRO

Man's death after fire declared homicide

Edmonton police say a 54-year-old man who died after being injured in an apartment fire was a victim of homicide.

Gregory Alan Fenton sustained life-threatening injuries when a fire broke out in an apartment building near 115 Street and 107 Avenue at around 7:40 a.m. on Nov. 29.

Fenton died in hospital on Dec. 4. The Edmonton Police Service's Arson Unit and homicide detectives continue to investigate.

Police are asking anyone with information about this incident to contact them at 780-423-4567.

METRO

Mom pleads for tips on missing daughter

DISAPPEARANCE

New billboard close to where Maggie Burke went missing

Alex Boyd
Metro | Edmonton

On a new billboard Maggie Burke looks happy, with her hands on her hips and a big smile.

The new Crime Stoppers sign has been placed at the intersection of 95 Street and 117 Avenue, because it's just a block away from where Maggie disappeared, in 2004.

Her mother, Marie Burke, hopes the sign will generate fresh tips in a case that's gone unsolved for over a decade.

"To me, she is still very much with us. Until I know what happened, I think of her as she was," Burke said.

Burke describes her daughter as happy-go-lucky; an animal-lover who was quick to make friends. She would have celebrated her 32nd birthday last month.

Eleven years ago Maggie got a phone call, and it was believed she was heading out to meet a friend.

She hasn't been seen since.

Maggie was believed to have worked in the sex trade and to



Marie Burke speaks to reporters at the site of a new billboard designed to generate tips about her missing daughter, Maggie Burke. ALEX BOYD/METRO INSET: Maggie Burke SUPPLIED

have struggled with addiction. Police believe foul play was involved in her disappearance.

She left behind a daughter, now 11.

"We need to find out what happened to Maggie," Burke said. "Also, I want my granddaughter, Pipon, to grow up knowing that we have, and will continue to make every ef-

fort to find her mother."

The RCMP say close to 1,200 indigenous women have gone missing in Canada between 1980 and 2012.

Police describe Maggie as an aboriginal female, 5'7, 125 pounds, brown eyes, with brown hair and red streaks at the time, and a marijuana leaf tattoo on her left arm.



REFUGEES

Housing emerges as worry

Ryan Tumilty
Metro | Edmonton

With Edmonton already beginning to welcome Syrian refugees, housing is emerging as a major concern as some will need shelter for large families.

Lyall Brenneis, the city's branch manager for community strategies and development — who's acting as the point person on refugees — said the city isn't concerned about the privately sponsored families currently arriving, as housing is already arranged.

But Brenneis said the city is worried about finding housing for government-sponsored Syrian refugees, set to arrive in January.

He added much of the city's affordable housing is designed for single people or couples.

"Many of the refugees coming are larger families and that would require market housing, which is available, but is not as affordable," he said. "It will stretch the capacity of the settlement agencies to support the arriving families and find (them) adequate housing."

The city has information on its website for residents who want to help with donations and other assistance settlement agencies need, and is also helping co-ordinate while settlement agencies do the majority of the work.

Brenneis said the city is meeting regularly with all the agencies involved in welcoming refugees and is offering support where it can.

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Nathan Ip is one of several within the school board association pushing for it to adopt a stance on transgender policies in schools. CONTRIBUTED/NATHAN IP

Pressure grows to back LGBTQ policy

EDUCATION

Group urged to support school boards in drafting rules



Braeden Jones
Metro | Edmonton

Some members of the Alberta School Board Association are determined to get LGBTQ issues onto the organization's agenda, even if it's through the backdoor.

In November, at the association's fall annual general meet-

ing, an Edmonton Public Schools motion to discuss LGBTQ policy failed to gain enough support.

"We didn't get it to the floor," said EPSD board chair Michael Janz, who explained the motion required two-thirds majority to be recognized but gained just 63 per cent of the ASBA membership behind it.

"Now we are trying to bring it forward to the board of directors," he said. "If you can't get through the front door, you try the backdoor."

A "directive for action" from the November meeting calls for the ASBA to support boards in developing LGBTQ policy, as Alberta Education has directed them all to do by the end of March.

That directive will be on the ASBA board meeting agenda Thursday, which gives proponents the backdoor they need.

Nathan Ip, both an EPSD board trustee and ASBA board member, said he plans to amend the directive into an actual policy position.

"The content will be the same (as the fall AGM motion that failed)," he said. "That motion is now done, but we will use the same rationale on this... we are going to continue until we get a provincial-wide policy or the ASBA takes a position."

Ip said the association's main role is to advocate on behalf of school boards, as it represents all 61 in Alberta. But without a policy position, "it is unable

+ BACKGROUND

On Nov. 5, Education Minister David Eggen directed all of Alberta's school boards to come up with policies to protect LGBTQ parents, staff and students from discrimination by March 31, 2016. Alberta Education will provide boards with guidelines, but has yet to do so —leaving some looking for guidance elsewhere, such as from the ASBA.

to speak on behalf of its members" or support them in creating the policy they need to on deadline, he said.

COURT

Man gets adult sentence for death

A man who was two days shy of his 18th birthday when he fatally beat an Edmonton father in front of his toddler has been sentenced as an adult.

Chase Paul earlier pleaded guilty as a youth to second-degree murder in the 2011 death of John Kwiatkowski.

Court heard Paul ran away from a youth centre in Regina and travelled to Edmonton in a series of stolen vehicles.

He got drunk and, planning to steal from cars and houses, walked into Kwiatkowski's unlocked home and beat the man with a metal pipe as he was sleeping.

Paul accidentally struck Kwiatkowski's two-year-old daughter with the pipe when

she walked in on the beating.

Paul, who is now 22, automatically gets a life sentence and is eligible for parole after serving seven years.

Nick Kwiatkowski says he was focused on hating Paul for the death of his brother but listened as the killer told court about his troubled upbringing.

"Hearing what happened in his life, from his own mouth, kind of throws a different spin on things," he said.

"I feel bad for him but, at the same time, like I said before, he made his decision on what he wanted to do that night and he's got to live with it. And unfortunately so do all of us."

THE CANADIAN PRESS/CHED



FUNDRAISER SAY CHEESE Santa (not the same one as on our cover) poses with a smiling pooch at a fundraiser for the Edmonton Humane Society on Wednesday at West Edmonton Mall. KEVIN TUONG/FOR METRO

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BEEKEEPING

Honey industry buzzing

The Canadian beekeeping industry is buzzing over new numbers that show honey production is up.

New figures from Statistics Canada show beekeepers produced 95.3 million pounds of honey in 2015, an increase of 11.4 per cent from the previous year.

The total value of the sweet stuff is up by 10.9 per cent to \$232 million due to the increased production.

"The industry is successful and is growing. It really is a positive message," Rod Scarlett, executive director of the Canadian Honey Council said Wednesday.

The number of bee colonies increased by 3.6 per cent, largely due to milder temperatures last winter that reduced losses, mainly in the Prairies.

Scarlett said Canada has been bucking the trend of declines in bee numbers compared to other countries.

"We have been one of the few areas that stand out, in part because the beekeepers are more well versed in best management practises."

The industry is also working on an action plan with the federal government to promote bee health including ways to reduce pesticide exposure in and outside the hive.

Scarlett said the biggest challenge facing the industry is competition for the key U.S. market from Argentina, which has also had a bumper crop of honey that is affecting prices.

Alberta is the top honey producer in Canada and one of the largest in the world, with the majority of hives in and around the greater Edmonton area and the Peace River region. THE CANADIAN PRESS



Advocates hope the government will increase penalties for drivers who call pedestrians during the ongoing review of traffic legislation. KEVIN TUONG/FOR METRO

Pedestrians' lives should be worth more: Advocate

SAFETY

Group wants higher fines for those who hit, kill on road



Ryan Tumilty
Metro | Edmonton

Advocates for safer roads want the provincial government to place more value on lives by

creating larger penalties for drivers who hit and kill pedestrians.

Conrad Nobert, with the group Paths for People, said the consequence for taking the life of a pedestrian is abysmally low.

"There is virtually no penalty, so we would like to see penalties (become) a lot stronger," he said.

Except for impaired driving cases, a driver who hits and fatally kills a pedestrian and is not charged usually faces a maximum fine of \$2,000 and



We want to make sure that we do everything possible to protect the safety of drivers and pedestrians.

Transportation Minister Brian Mason

a three-month driving suspension.

Nobert said a pedestrian fatality can have huge ripple effects, but isn't treated that way.

"We just slap people on the wrist," he said.

Transportation Minister

Brian Mason said his department is reviewing the Traffic Safety Act right now, and will examine pedestrian safety.

"We want to make sure that we do everything possible to protect the safety of drivers and pedestrians, everybody who uses our roads," he said.

Mason declined to speculate whether penalties for striking pedestrians needed to change.

"We need to see the review through and one of the aspects will be whether we have the appropriate penalties in place," he said.

Nobert said changing street design to encourage drivers to slow down is more important than legislative changes.

"It's drivers who are reacting to the design of the street," he said. "We think that is a more impactful way to make change."

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Santa Robin's life and times

SEASONAL HIRE

Canadian company puts the focus on authenticity

Alex
Boyd
For Metro | Edmonton

Each year, Santa Robin starts growing his beard on March 1.

"But you have to groom and shape it so it looks like a Santa beard, that's the hard part," he said. "You don't want it to look too pirate."

Santa Robin is with Hire a Santa, a Canadian company whose goal it is to provide "authentic, real-bearded Santas."

This is Santa Robin's 12th year donning the red suit.

He came to the job like many: His sister needed someone large who could pass as Saint Nick for an event and Robin happened to be around.

He wasn't that large at the time so he stuffed the suit



This marks Robin's 12th year portraying Saint Nick. By Dec. 24, he says he can barely climb stairs. KEVIN TUONG/FOR METRO

with pillows.

Since then, Santa Robin has portrayed Saint Nick for daycares, office parties and vet clinics. His season starts in late November and, by Boxing Day, he'll have hit close

“
Being Santa
recharges my
batteries.”

Santa Robin

to 100 events, not including the stuff he does for charity.

One year at the Festival of Trees, he estimated he met more than 4,000 children a day.

He has a full time job but

takes his vacation time in December in order to commit to the season. "Being Santa recharges my batteries," he said.

He's taken photos with one-week-old-babies and couples in their 90s. For the "kickers and screamers," he's been known to do the splits behind them so parents still get a memorable photo.

Santa Robin doesn't talk about the tough questions he gets, about what he calls the real break your heart stuff. "That's between me and them."

The sign of a successful Santa is repeat visits. Santa Robin has one "little one" who first visited when she was six. She's now 16 and still coming.

"They want to be heard," he said. "Let's go back to when you were a little girl. You wanted that puppy or that Barbie, and your parents said 'No' or 'Maybe.' Well, Santa can't promise you something, but just to see that sparkle when they're telling me ..."

"The child thinks, 'Okay, I've been listened to.'"

IN TRAINING

Robin's advice for those who want to wear the suit:

Beware of animals: "I once had to take a picture with an iguana, I didn't feel comfortable with this animal but they said it would just sleep. Well, it woke up."

Get a flu shot: Thousands of kids means billions of germs. Get your flu shot and take your vitamin C. "There's times I can barely make it up on the stairs on Dec. 24."

Grow a beard: Some Santas rely on a fake beards and costume glue. "But, as soon as you get your first tug," he says of the glue, "you're going to lose some skin."

Find a good Mrs. Claus: When Santa Robin was working alone, it sometimes seemed like "hand to hand combat" with every second child. A good Mrs. Santa calms everything down.

Embrace it: "It's the season, all people are just a little bit kinder. And you find the ones that are looking for that kindness."

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Shops work with closure

HIGH STREET

Retailers focus on service after bridge shuts



Andrea Ross
Metro | Edmonton

For the first time in 10 years, Bob Zechel's business on High Street isn't growing.

The owner of Cloud Nine Pajamas said his sales are down about 10 per cent since the summer of 2014, when the 102 Avenue bridge closed for construction.

But he's not too worried.

Zechel said he sees the bridge closure as an opportunity to strengthen his family business. He's boosted print and social media advertising, invested in new products and staff training, and even hired more staff to offer better customer service at the upscale pajama boutique.

He said they're long-term



Miranda Zechel works the sales floor during a busy afternoon at Cloud Nine Pajamas.

TARYN BRANDELL/FOR METRO

improvements for dealing with a short-term problem.

"The people who are finding us, despite the bridge closure, are getting a better experience

in our store," Zechel said. "I think a lot of it has to do with education, becoming a better store owner, becoming a better store for our customers."

Lux Beauty Boutique owner Jennifer Grimm said decreased sales were an inevitable consequence of the bridge closure, but said she acted quickly to

develop convenient ways of getting products to her customers.

Lux now offers curbside delivery for those who can't find parking in front of the store. The shop also re-launched its online store after several years of hiatus, boosted its social media presence and frequently hosts exclusive events.

It's the little touches of personalized customer service that keep people coming through the door, Grimm said, despite the inconveniences of area construction.

"I prefer to focus my energies inward on things that I can control," she said. "I don't know what other people are facing, but all I can do is focus on what I know and what I can control, and that's our attitude as a team."



I prefer to focus my energies inward on things that I can control.

Lux Beauty Boutique owner
Jennifer Grimm

CAPITAL LINE

Wi-Fi now at 15 stations



Braeden Jones
Metro | Edmonton

Whether they're tweeting, gaming or sending emails, commuters will be able to do so with fewer restrictions now that the city has made Wi-Fi available at all 15 stations on the Capital Line.

"(We) promised the entire Capital Line would be Wi-Fi ready by the end of 2015, and now that has been done," said Justin Townell, Edmonton Transit's customer experience manager.

Indeed, the idea to offer wireless Internet to transit users was up in the air last winter — first floated at a transportation committee meeting — and then piloted in February at the Southgate LRT Station.

Preliminary usage showed more than 17,000 Wi-Fi sessions in a 28-day period.

Townell said Wi-Fi will be added to all Metro Line stops by the end of 2016.

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MEDICAL BREAKTHROUGH

Heart meds may help cancer patients: Study



Andrea Ross
Metro | Edmonton

A new study from the University of Alberta has found taking heart medication while undergoing chemotherapy can reduce the risk of heart damage in patients with breast cancer.

The five-year study shows that beta-blocker and ACE-inhibitor heart medications can prevent

heart damage resulting from cancer treatment for early-stage breast cancer.

According to previous research, some cancer therapies, such as Herceptin, can improve survival rates for those with early-stage breast cancer. But these medications can increase the risk of heart failure by as much as five times.

"We think this is practice-changing," study co-investigator Dr. Edith Pituskin said in a news release. "This will improve the safety of the cancer treatment that we provide."

During the clinical trial, 100 patients with early-stage breast cancer from Alberta and Manitoba were randomly selected to

receive either a beta blocker, ACE inhibitor or a placebo for one year.

MRI imaging showed that patients who received the beta blockers had fewer signs of heart weakening than those who took the placebo, and those who took the ACE inhibitor also experienced protective effects.

Study participant Brenda Skanes said the findings will help breast cancer survivors for years to come.



We think this is practice-changing.

Dr. Edith Pituskin



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Farmers have been vocal about their opposition to safety bill.

KEVIN TUONG/FOR METRO

NDP rejects Bill 6 delay

ALBERTA

Controversial farm safety act passed after heated debate

The Alberta government rejected a bid by opposition parties Wednesday to delay a controversial farm-safety bill following another round of heated debate.

The NDP caucus voted to defeat a motion to move Bill 6, the Enhanced Protection for Farm and Ranch Workers Act, to a legislature committee for further discussion.

The government passed the bill at second reading after passing a motion to limit the debate.

Opposition parties have been talking at length in the house on the bill for a week, and government house leader Brian Mason has said the business of the legislature can't remain at a standstill.

Mason has already served notice the government could limit further debate on the bill.

"I hope that it wraps up (third and final reading) to-

morrow," he said.

The proposed legislation gives occupational health and safety protections and worker compensation benefits to paid farm workers effective Jan. 1.

Having safety rules in place will help young farm and ranch workers, who may feel they can't refuse unsafe work for fear of losing their jobs or out of concern for letting down their employer, Finance Minister Joe Ceci said.

"We've heard many stories here about employment on farms and ranches that are not ideal," he said.

"We want to put some basic protections in place."

Those comments brought an enraged response from Wildrose member Jason Nixon.

"We've seen this minister now just do exactly what the premier

has done in this assembly over and over and over again, and that is to blame farmers and ranchers, saying for a hundred years they've been trying to hurt their employees, trying to kill their employees," said Nixon. "This is why they're mad in rural Alberta."

THE CANADIAN PRESS

We've heard many stories here about employment on farms and ranches that are not ideal.

Finance Minister
Joe Ceci

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POLITICS

Promised tax cuts are on their way



Michael Woods
Metro|Ottawa

The Liberal government is forging ahead with its plan to raise taxes on the rich and cut taxes for middle-income earners — despite the fiscal impact on federal coffers.

The Liberal campaign platform said the tax changes would be revenue neutral, but the government admitted this week that they won't be; they will cost the federal treasury \$1.2 billion annually.

Asked about the \$1.2 billion gap on Wednesday, Prime Minister Justin Trudeau told reporters there were different analyses during the campaign of how much

the measures were going to cost and bring in.

The Liberals promised to raise taxes from 29 per cent to 33 per cent on incomes more than \$200,000, and lower the tax rate from 22 per cent to 20.5 per cent on incomes between \$44,000 and \$89,000.

Trudeau TRACKER

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"That is what we are doing, and that is what we're committed to doing," Trudeau said. "It's not just good for middle-class Canadians to get more money in their pockets every paycheque, it's also good for fighting against the income in-

equality that continues to be a problem for growth in Canada."

A ways and means motion detailing the changes passed in the House of Commons 230-95 on Wednesday.

IN BRIEF

Lake falls off cliff

A small northern lake has fallen off a cliff after bursting through the melting earthen rampart that restrained it.

A video released Wednesday by the government of the Northwest Territories shows how the lake, undermined by melting permafrost, collapsed into a valley below. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Duffy: Colleague told him expense claims OK

On his second day of testi-

mony, Sen. Mike Duffy said a senior Conservative colleague told him to file expense claims indicating he lived primarily in P.E.I. in order to insulate himself from criticism. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Quebec's assisted dying law comes into effect

Quebec's health minister says legislation on assisted dying will become law on Thursday after a court ruling Wednesday afternoon. THE CANADIAN PRESS



Immigration Minister John McCallum speaks about Canada's plan to resettle 25,000 Syrian refugees. SEAN KILPATRICK/THE CANADIAN PRESS

Syrian refugees to begin arriving

IMMIGRATION

'It will be a great day,' Trudeau says

About 300 Syrians are expected to arrive in Canada by Saturday as the long-awaited, first flights under the Liberal plan to resettle thousands of refugees from the war-torn region finally touch down.

The first aircraft is scheduled to land Thursday evening in Toronto, with a second flight arriving Saturday in Montreal, Prime Minister Justin Trudeau told the House of Commons during question period.

"Resettling refugees demonstrates our commitment to

Canadians and to the world that Canada understands that we can and must do more," he said.

"It will be a great day."

While just over 400 refugees have arrived since the new government was sworn in on Nov. 4, Thursday marks the start of a program that's been weeks in the making, as officials in Canada and overseas have scrambled to help the Liberals meet a campaign promise to resettle 25,000 people.

Initially, the promise was to bring all of them in by year's end, but the government was forced to spread the commitment over a longer time period because of the logistics.

The first group of refugees will fly to Canada on military planes, but the government says

the rest of the flights scheduled for December are likely to be privately chartered aircraft.

The first 300 arrivals are among 10,000 privately sponsored refugees the government is seeking to welcome by Dec. 31.

Those with sponsors in the Toronto or Montreal areas will be told where and when to meet their new hosts, while those destined for other communities across Canada will stay overnight in their arrival cities before moving on the next day.

By the end of February, the government is itself hoping to resettle 15,000 refugees, to be initially spread among 36 different cities where agencies have agreements for resettlement services. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Opportunity to succeed

Haidah Amirzadeh was seven months pregnant and couldn't speak English when she arrived as a refugee in Saskatoon in 1989. Zahra Darzi fled Iran with her two daughters after her husband was executed. She claimed refugee status once she arrived in Regina in 1991.

Amirzadeh is now a lawyer specializing in immigration and refugee law who teaches at the University of Saskatchewan. Darzi is an engineer working at Saskatchewan's telephone utility.

Both say they came to Canada looking for an opportunity to succeed and both seized it. As Canada prepares to bring in thousands of Syrian refugees, the women say they want to remind people that, while many will come with little, it won't take long for them to get on their feet.

"Nobody really wants to be a burden," says Amirzadeh.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

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Firearm usage in the U.S. by the numbers

SHOOTING DEATHS

Seven key facts about firearms in America

America's fixation with firearms is an easy target for world condemnation. Some of it, though, is based on myths, outdated information and flawed assumptions. Here are a few surprising statistics.

- 1 Gun crime is way down.** Gun crime is much less common in the U.S. now than it was in the 1990s. Since 1993, the gun homicide rate has been cut in half, from seven per 100,000 people to 3.6 per 100,000 people.
- 2 Gun ownership is at an all-time low.** Fewer U.S. households possessed guns last year than at any time in the last 40 years: 32 per cent, according to the General Social Survey.



Weapons at the scene of a shootout in San Bernardino, Calif.
HANDOUT/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

- 3 There's strong support for gun restrictions.** Many Americans are highly supportive of specific gun-control proposals. Large majorities favoured mandatory background checks for people buying guns at gun shows (85 per cent), and laws to prevent people with mental illnesses from

buying guns (79 per cent).

- 4 Some politicians are taking action.** In the wake of mass shootings, it is easy to believe American politicians are doing nothing. That's not true: After the 2012 attack on a Colorado movie theatre, the state banned high-capacity magazines. Within two

years of the Sandy Hook shooting, five states had expanded background checks.

- 5 America is still off the charts.** The U.S. continues to have a far higher gun homicide rate than any other wealthy industrialized country. The U.S. gun homicide rate was 20 times higher in 2003 than the combined rate of 22 other major nations.

- 6 The biggest gun problem is suicide.** Suicides get far less attention than homicides, but they account for about 60 per cent of U.S. gun deaths — and rising.

- 7 African-Americans are the primary victims.** African-Americans, and especially African-American men, are far more likely to be the victims of gun crime. In 2010, for example, blacks were seven times more likely than whites to be killed in a gun homicide.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

RACISM

Islamophobia up in France: Group

France's state of emergency has allowed French police to conduct warrantless searches and detain people without charge — extraordinary powers that have been used to target the Muslim community, religious leaders say.

Yasser Louati is a spokesman for the Collective Against Islamophobia in France. He spoke with Torstar News Service from Paris. The interview has been edited for length and clarity.

Question: You claim the state of emergency has unfairly targeted Muslims. What evidence do you have?

Answer: The raids have disproportionately targeted people of Islamic faith with overt brutality. We've collected evidence of 50 cases of abuse — and these are just the ones we know about — where police hurled racist abuse at families, women were assaulted and one even miscarried. When raids are conducted

on erroneous intelligence — 90 per cent of the raids have found nothing. Why humiliate people?

Q: Has there been more racism since the attacks?

A: The hate began the night of the attacks. Even before the attacks were finished, we already had death threats against Muslims and calls for revenge. Veiled women have been assaulted in front of their children.

Q: Do you see it as reflecting a bigger problem of Islamophobia, not only in France but across the western world?

A: Regarding the growing Islamophobia in the West, it's real but it's not due to the presence of Muslims. We've fabricated a Muslim problem in our society. We refuse to see Muslims as full-fledged citizens. We see them as Muslim, therefore an other, a foreigner. Muslims have been citizens of France for four generations and we continue to treat them as second-class. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE



Yasser Louati
SUPPLIED

UPDATE: MIGRANT CRISIS Smuggling boat sinks in Aegean, 12 drown, 12 missing; Greece clears out protesting migrants in the north

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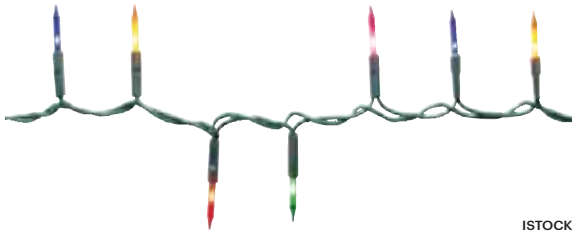
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LAW SUIT

Canadian Tire sues Walmart over lights



ISTOCK

Canadian Tire is accusing Walmart of ripping off the design of its made-in-Canada clip-on Christmas lights and is demanding that the mega-retailer cease and desist.

A Federal Court claim filed by Canadian Tire alleges that Walmart worked with two Taiwanese companies to copy the construction and packaging of its Noma Quick-Clip lights.

It wants Walmart to stop selling the "unique" product due to copyright infringement, and is seeking \$500,000 in punitive damages. Walmart has yet to file a statement of defence.

Earlier this week, Canadian Tire issued an unrelated safety warning to customers who pur-

chased Christmas lights from its Holiday Collection line. It says some of the products may pose a fire and shock hazard.

Canadian Tire is recalling 12 products made by Taizhou Hongpeng Colour Lanterns that were sold between Aug. 1, 2015, and Nov. 30, 2015, Canadian Tire said.

Health Canada has previously issued warnings this year about hazards with seasonal lights that were sold at Walmart, Dollarama, The Michaels Companies, Loblaws Companies Inc., Shoppers Drug Mart and Pharmaprix. Affected brands include Life at Home, Magi Decor, Celebrate it and Danson Decor.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Dollarama reveals prices creeping up

RETAIL

Discount chain says \$1.25 is the new \$1 — with cap rising to \$4

Dollarama confirmed Wednesday what a lot of its customers already know: that the majority of items in the stores are priced above \$1.25.

So the Montreal-based discount retailer — where everything originally sold for a loonie or even less when it was founded more than 20 years ago — said it will start to use \$1.25 rather than a dollar as its new reference point when reporting sales and financial results.

And while its current maximum price point is \$3, Dollarama will also introduce even higher-priced items of \$3.50 and \$4 starting in the second half of next year, chief executive Larry Rossy told analysts on a conference call.

He said many products at its 1,005 stores across Canada are still priced at a buck, but the \$1.25 metric is "a better representation of our price point range."

For the three months ending Nov. 1, 59.7 per cent of sales came from prices above \$1.25, compared with 54.1 per cent during the same period a year ago.



Montreal-based Dollarama says its higher-priced items are intended to help it adjust to the impact of the weakening Canadian dollar. THE CANADIAN PRESS FILE

The company said the higher-priced items are intended to help it adjust to the impact of the weakening Canadian dollar.

Dollarama started increasing its prices beyond \$1 about six years ago, and then introduced the \$2.50 and \$3 items in 2012.

A spokesperson said the new \$1.25 base price point is "totally unconnected to anything happening in stores," and that items without price stickers will remain \$1 as usual.

Ken Wong, marketing professor at the Smith School of

Business at Queen's University, said it reminds him of how the five-and-dime stores in the 1950s eventually had to drop that moniker as costs crept up, and then they were

just swallowed up by Kresge's and Woolco, then K-Mart and Walmart.

"History has a funny way of repeating itself. No matter what business you're in, your prices can only be as low as your costs," said Wong.

Meanwhile the company — whose green and yellow signage already contains the word 'plus' beside the \$1 logo to reflect higher prices — will try to stick to its cap on grocery items of \$2, Rossy said.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

IN BRIEF

Home of bitcoin's likely mystery founder raided

Australian police on Wednesday raided the home in a Sydney suburb of a man technology news sites have claimed is the mystery inventor of virtual currency bitcoin. Police said the searches were related to a tax investigation. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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CHANTAL HÉBERT: ON HARPER'S SUCCESSOR



A majority of Conservatives will be looking for more than just a change in tone when they pick the next leader.

The exact number of Conservative supporters who held their nose to stick with Stephen Harper last October and/or who would rather have had a new leader to vote for will never be known, but based on a poll published earlier this week it was probably significant.

Designed to provide an early glimpse at the dynamics of Harper's succession, the Abacus poll suggests a majority of Conservatives will be looking for more than just a change in tone when they pick the next leader.

Over the course of the past decade, the Reform/Alliance branch of the party has dominated the Harper government. But at this early juncture, none of its leading members inspire more than tepid support among Conservative voters.

Under prominent right-of-centre champions such as Jason Kenney — Harper's go-to minister — or Saskatchewan premier Brad Wall, the party would risk being pushed back to its strongholds of Western Canada.

East of Manitoba, the dream candidate of a plurality of Conservative voters hails from the progressive-conservative side of the family, as does the runner-up.

Of the nine possible contenders put forward by Abacus, only Peter MacKay and Jean Charest, two former federal Tory leaders, enjoy double-digit support in every region of the country.

But Charest has made it clear that he is not contemplating a return to federal politics and his diehard fans seem to have accepted that his no is final.

Based on the Abacus poll, staying on the sidelines is a

good call. Only in his home-province would Charest be competitive with MacKay. In Ontario and Atlantic Canada, his former caucus colleague would beat him hands down.

By comparison, Wall barely registers outside of the Prairies. Ditto for Jason Kenney.

That is not to say that Harper's succession is MacKay's for the asking or even that he wants the leadership. But if he did throw his hat in the ring, he would be the prohibitive front-runner, especially in a field that will probably not even feature

It will be weeks and possibly months before the actual lay of the post-Harper land takes shape.

some of the names that tested best in the Abacus poll.

Wall will be seeking another provincial mandate next year. He has consistently maintained that he has no interest in the federal job. Some believe that could change after the provincial election. But it is a rare premier who enters in a federal leadership campaign without a reasonable certainty of victory, and no such assurance would be on offer to Wall in the case of the Conservative Party.

Kenney has more solid support within the party than the poll indicates. But it is clear his high ministerial profile and a reputation for efficiency have not translated into popularity. Some of his Kenney's closest allies believe that the former minister could win the party, but doubt he could win the coun-

try. They note that there is a reason there has never been an openly socially conservative leader at the helm of a major federal party.

Ontario MP Lisa Raitt ranks best among the other former Harper team members whose names were put to the test. In the months to come, her critic role in the Commons will pit her against Finance Minister Bill Morneau; the pair is already emerging as the duo to watch in question period. But Raitt has yet to demonstrate the same proficiency in French, and no leader who was not fluently bilingual has met with electoral success federally since Lester B. Pearson resigned in the sixties.

By all indications, the Conservatives are not going to rush to a leadership vote. Based on the Conservative performance in question period this week, the interim team Rona Ambrose leads is well up to the job of keeping a rookie Liberal government on its toes in the House.

It will be weeks and possibly months before the actual lay of the post-Harper land takes shape. And although recent experience shows that running to a distant also-ran finish ends up being little more than a vanity pursuit, some of the contenders will only join the race to raise their profiles.

The greater the number of contenders, the higher the odds will be that one of this week's dark horses ends up the winner. Joe Clark and Stéphane Dion were both unlikely beneficiaries of a crowded leadership field.

Chantal Hébert is a national affairs writer. Her column appears in Metro every Thursday.

ROSEMARY WESTWOOD

metroview

Don't be PC. Say it: Donald Trump supporters are racist.

Donald J. Trump is right about one thing. We're far too politically correct.

So politically correct, in fact, that we can't even admit his followers are racist.

We're happy to heap scorn on the man himself. See how much of the world united to denounce his call to ban Muslims from entering the U.S. Witness Vancouver and Toronto seek to rebrand his real estate properties, lest a bigot's name be found in their skyline. Watch the Daily Show dub him "White ISIS" or WISIS.

But when it comes to Trump's devotees, we take a much different tack.

Pundits are hand-wringing trying to explain his continued lead in the Republican nomination polls, and seem to take comfort in the fact that more Republicans don't support Trump than do. Reporters covering his rallies noted this week that Trump seems to beguile his supporters with humour and flattery. Psychologists are positing Trump's fans are swayed mostly by his defiant stance.

But few are blaming Trump's supporters for their culpability in spreading anti-Muslim, anti-Mexican and anti-Chinese vitriol. And even fewer are explaining his popularity by calling a spade a racist.

Conservatives, of course, don't want to alienate their own, especially when they're courting votes.

Liberals have no excuse. Except possibly the fear of backlash, and I'll admit to being worried myself. I like the various explanations offered for Trump's popularity, because they make me feel better about my fellow humans.

If they're not hate-filled, it's easier to keep up my whole humanistic world view, never mind my Catholic one. We're supposed to be accepting of all. We also tend to believe people hold different opinions only because we haven't quite got to them yet.

I might, if I met them in a coffee shop, like a Donald Trump supporter without knowing they were one, and I wouldn't want to piss off my new brew buddy.

But the stakes, in the case of Trump's rally-goers, are far too high for all that.

Anti-Muslim sentiment is rising. And it doesn't need a boost from the most widely covered politician in the U.S., if not the world.

So let's be honest: Anti-Muslim sentiment is only getting that boost because Trump's disciples are racist. Not confused. Not afraid. Not manipulated by flattery. Racist.

I think it's very, very sad, yet important, and probably not politically correct, but I don't care, eh Trump? Otherwise, it's going to get worse and worse, folks. We have no choice. So, Donald, how's that for politically incorrect?

THE MICROTREND: Self-tanner sales pale



The decades-long trend of both women and men looking suspiciously sun-kissed in Siberian climates seems to finally be on the wane. A study by British market-research firm Mintel has found sales of self-tanning lotion are sinking like the sun on a December afternoon; a shift that is actually kind of retro. While in past centuries parasol-toting ladies prized their milky complexions — it indicated that you hadn't been out in the fields like some kind of peasant — Coco Chanel is credited with popularizing the lightly toasted look in the 1920s. It became the beauty ideal from then on. Interestingly, Chanel's rosy glow was also meant to broadcast that she lived a life of leisure on the French Riviera and didn't need to work, but by that time the workplace was more likely to be a typing pool than a potato farm. SOURCE: THE SCOTSMAN

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See dealer for details. ®Registered trademark of The Bank of Nova Scotia, RBC and Royal Bank are registered trademarks of Royal Bank of Canada. † \$4,000/\$5,200/\$11,000 is a combined credit consisting of \$1,000 Connect & Win Bonus (tax inclusive) and a \$3,000/\$4,200/\$10,000 manufacturer to dealer finance cash (tax exclusive) for a 2015 Cruze/Equinox which is available for finance offers only and cannot be combined with special lease rates and cash purchase. ‡ \$4,000/\$5,200/\$11,000 is a combined credit consisting of \$1,000 Connect & Win Bonus (tax inclusive) and a \$3,000/\$4,200/\$10,000 manufacturer to dealer cash credit (tax exclusive) for a 2015 Cruze/Equinox LS FWD/Silverado HD Double Cab with gas engine (except WT 2WD), which is available for cash purchases only and cannot be combined with special lease and finance rates. 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It's that time of year when books critics sort through the piles on their desks in search of the best of the best. While you can't go wrong with any of the titles on this year's Scotiabank Giller Prize shortlist — especially Andre Alexis' *Fifteen Dogs*, which took the award — plenty of other Canadian 2015 releases are worth picking up as a present, or for that coveted holiday-vacation read **SUE CARTER** FOR METRO

Every gift in the book

The Devil You Know, Elisabeth di Mariaffi (Patrick Crean Editions)

Elisabeth di Mariaffi's first thriller, set in 1993 just prior to the arrest of serial rapist Paul Bernardo, introduces a confident new voice who perfectly capturing the paranoia and fear of the time through the eyes of a young reporter.

The Social History of Ink, Ted Bishop (Viking)

Alberta professor Ted Bishop travels the world to uncover the cultural history of ink. Who knew that the ubiquitous ballpoint pen has such a sordid legacy of murder, rivalries and intrigue?

Kim Echlin, Under the Visible Life (Hamish Hamilton)

The power of music and the isolation of being an outsider makes Kim Echlin's story about a decades-long friendship between two women one of the year's most overlooked novels.

Beyond the Pale: Folklore, Family, and the Mystery of Our Hidden Genes, Emily Urquhart (HarperCollins)

After giving birth to a daughter with albinism, Emily Urquhart uses her background as a folklorist to uncover various stories and fables in hopes of better understanding the cultural narratives surrounding the genetic disorder.

If I Fall, If I Die, Michael Christie (McClelland & Stewart)

Vancouver author and former pro-skateboarder Michael Christie draws on his personal history in this novel about a young boy in Thunder Bay who longs to go outside and leave the safety of his agoraphobic mother.

Sidewalk Flowers, JonArno Lawson and Sydney Smith (Groundwood Books)

Sure, it's technically a kids' picture book, but JonArno Lawson's wordless poem, about a young girl observing the world while her distracted dad carries on their walk, is a poignant

reminder for grown-ups to slow down. Warning: Sydney Smith's gorgeous illustrations may draw a few tears.

Stalin's Daughter, Rosemary Sullivan (HarperCollins)

History buffs will love Rosemary Sullivan's meaty biography of Svetlana Alliluyeva, the only daughter of the tyrant dictator Joseph Stalin, who spent her long, fascinating life trying to escape her father's name.

Russell Smith, Confidence (Biblioasis)

It has been nearly 20 years since Russell Smith burst onto the literary scene heralding a new generation of writers more interested in what was happening at the cocktail bar than the CanLit settings of yore. Smith's short stories prove that he is still an astute observer of urban mores.

The Brief Reincarnation of a Girl, Sue Goyette (Gaspereau Books)

Sue Goyette's powerful poetry collection doubles as documentary as she tries to make sense of the true-life story of a couple tried for murder after their young child died from a prescribed drug cocktail meant to treat ADHD and bipolar disorder.

James Grainger, Harmless (McClelland & Stewart)

It's no surprise that Atom Egoyan has already optioned James Grainger's debut novel. This taut, economically written thriller about a friends' weekend away contains some gory twists, and doubles as a clever exploration of contemporary masculinity.

Sue Carter is the editor at Quill & Quire magazine.



WHERE SANTA LIVES



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Ripley's tales hang by a head, or hair

BELIEVE IT OR NOT!

Curiosity drives popular oddities series, archivist says

Dean Lisk
Metro | Canada

At what point does a person realize they can dislocate their eyeball from its socket, or swallow a sword, or contort their body so it fits into a suitcase, or even lift a washing machine with only their hair?

"I think sword swallowing is lame. That is where I draw the line. But, how you learn you can swallow a sword is one of the greatest mysteries of my life," says Edward Meyer, vice president of exhibits and archives at Ripley's Entertainment Inc.

He had a chance to learn the answer a number of years ago when he met the man who holds a record for the most swords swallowed at once, the longest sword swallowed

and who can even bend over and bow while performing the trick.

"I asked him, I'd wanted to ask a sword swallower this for 20 years, how did you learn to do this? And, I kid you not, he was a juggler and he found out the sword swallower in the show was earning twice his salary. He decided he was going to learn to do it. He walked into an army surplus store, took a sword off the wall and shoved it down his throat.

"He hurt himself, but realized what the trick was right away, and said, 'Hey I can do this.'"

Sword swallowing is one of the believable — even though you may be taken aback by it — facts included in Ripley's

Believe It Or Not! Eye-Popping Oddities, the 12th and newest in a series that examines some of the

odd, unusual and unbelievable.

"It's human curiosity, in a nutshell" Meyer says of Ripley's appeal. As the archivist, he takes care of the more than 35,000 exhibits in the entertainment chain's 32 "oddtariums" around the world, more than 50,000 photographs, and the 120,000 cartoons from its 98-years (and counting) of

newspaper-syndicated columns.

"People want to know about the rest of the world and their place in it. And, if they are odd or eccentric, they want to think they have a big place in it, and that 15 minutes of fame that Andy (Warhol) promised everybody is a big motivator."

Many of the things you will find in the book, including a young woman who can lift a washing machine by her hair while hanging upside down, are submitted by the public. It's a tradition which began with Robert Ripley, who created his first Believe It or Not! cartoon for The New York Globe in 1918.

"He realized that people were his greatest source of information," says Meyer. "He said give me your stuff and I will make you famous, that is what it boils down to."

It made the U.S. postal service boil over in frustration. Instead of addressing their letters directly to Ripley, many were mailed using funny addresses or labelled with drawings. It prompted the service to issue a stern warning.

"It became a game to see how you could get to Ripley without directly going the easy route," Meyer says. "People were really clever. At the time he was getting over 2 million pieces a year on average, so half of that, a quarter of that, had weird addresses the post guy had to figure out or decipher — you could tell why they were upset."

Eye-Popping Oddities is the 12th book in the Ripley's Believe It Or Not! series.

LIZ BEDDALL/METRO



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PUBLISHERS GROUP CANADA

TOO WEIRD EVEN FOR RIPLEY'S

Editor's pick

Meyer's favourite picture in the book is from 1931 and features an animal trainer, who goes by the nickname "Cheerful," hanging from an elephant's mouth like a human pendulum.

66

"The faith in his training skills that this elephant isn't going to crush him, isn't going to sneeze on him or inhale him, or anything else, is mind blowing."

Edward Meyer of Ripley's Entertainment



What readers want

While every book Ripley's puts out is different, Meyer says every edition includes a chapter on food.

"I don't get it," he says. "I've probably eaten more weird food than anybody else you will ever meet, but I don't like looking at pictures of weird foods. Give me the duck head, and I will try it, but I don't need to stare at it."

What you won't find

If it's 100 per cent true, Ripley's wants it. But, there are some things they won't touch, says Meyer.

"We shy away from nudity — totally away from pornography. We aren't really keen on aliens or 'witchcraft.' If you can't prove it — that doesn't mean we aren't interested in it — but if you can't prove it, we are not going to put our name on it." DEAN LISK/METRO

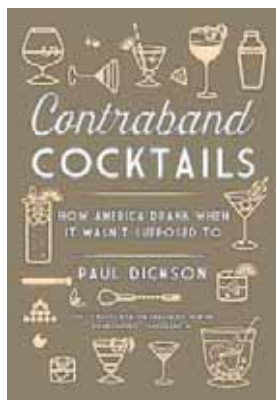
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PICKS FOR THE BOOK LOVERS ON YOUR LIST

Everyone knows the best gifts are the ones that are thoughtful and a wink to the gift recipient's personality. Forget those generic gift cards and go for one of these fun books. Whether you're looking for something for your office Secret Santa party, for the guy or girl you're kind of into, or for your best friend, you're sure to win some points with one of these picks. **EMILY LAURENCE FOR METRO**

1 Contraband Cocktails by Paul Dickson

Give your favourite drinking buddy a recipe book for cocktails made popular during Prohibition. Just because consuming alcohol was illegal didn't stop people from drinking; there were over 32,000 speakeasies in New York City alone. Author Paul Dickson serves up some fascinating history and photographs of the Prohibition Era, and lots of recipes to keep you warm through the winter.



2 Picador Modern Classics

These pocket-sized titles are stunning, and even though they're tiny, the font isn't ridiculously small or hard to read. Books as good as Jeffrey Eugenides' *The Virgin Suicides* and *Housekeeping* by Marilynne Robinson.

3 The Rap Year Book by Shea Serrano

This new book highlights the pivotal moments in rap from the past 36 years. Biggie, Tupac, Sugarhill Gang, Drake — they're all in here. And with an intro by Ice-T, colorful pages packed with quizzes, lyric maps, artist portraits and infographics, it's way cooler than any history book you've ever seen.



BOOK BRIEFS

Nonfiction prize long list announced

Twelve titles have made the long list for the 2016 RBC Taylor Prize for non-fiction, including one by a former winner and another that's already won a major award.

Toronto journalist Ian Brown, who won the \$25,000 Taylor prize in 2010 for his memoir *The Boy in the Moon: A Father's Search for His Disabled Son*, made the cut this time for *Sixty: The Beginning of the End, or the End of the Beginning?* (Random House Canada). Also on the list is *Stalin's Daughter: The Extraordinary and Tumultuous Life of Svetlana Alliluyeva* (HarperCollins Publishers) by Toronto's Rosemary Sullivan, which won the \$60,000 Hilary Weston Writers' Trust Prize for Nonfiction in October.

Another title on the list is *Road Trip Rwanda: A Journey Into the New Heart of Africa* (Viking Canada) by Calgary's Will Ferguson, who won the 2012 Scotiabank Giller Prize for his novel 419.

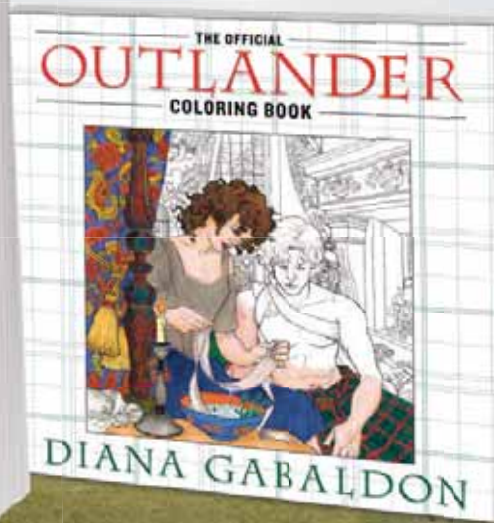
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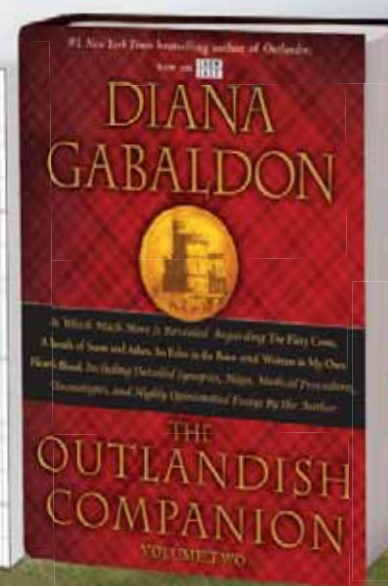
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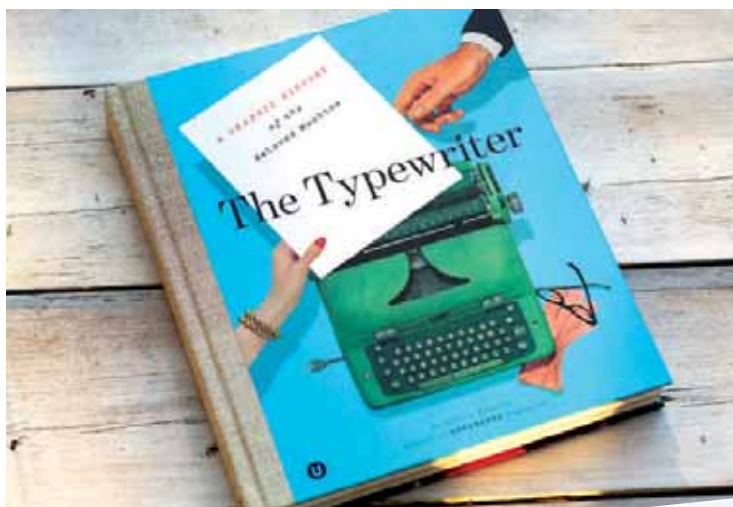


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Just my type

The Typewriter: A Graphic History of the Beloved Machine (UPPERCASE publishing) is filled with facts, photos, illustrations and advertisements that illuminate a subject which is occasionally provocative and unexpectedly fascinating. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE



Keyboard basics

One of the earliest examples of a typewriter keyboard shows a design that competed with and eventually prevailed over rival designs to become the standard for typewriter and computer keyboards in the modern era. Note that in the interest of economy, the keyboard in the picture does not include a key for the number 1, instead relying on uppercase I or a lowercase l. Other machines at the time omitted the numbers 1 and 0 for the same reason.

Early advertisements

As women began to enter the workforce in ever greater numbers, an array of post cards from the early 20th century demonstrate the issue of office romance in ways ranging from gently humorous to downright lecherous. The underlying message is that men are in charge in the workplace and may or may not take liberties while women may be objects of attraction but are always subordinate.

Origins of the office pool

A lantern slide shows a typical scene in a secretarial pool busily working away in a crowded office space in Vienna circa 1910. Note that the women are all well covered in the conservative dress of the day and wear their hair pinned up. The slide has been hand-painted to add colour to their cheeks. This is the stereotypical example of secretaries with demure smiles and fashionable dress.

Typewriting Protocol (pullout book)

The handbook, entitled How to be a super-secretary, offers a range of etiquette tips and ideas for working women that is rife with sexist language and is frequently hilarious. For example, on appropriate dress for the office, ladies should find the balance between "ultra-extreme" and "over casual" and avoid elaborate makeup and hair styles. A two-page quiz encourages secretaries to rate their performance in 13 categories and then to check it again six months later. An extensive list of boss pet peeves includes admonitions against "chewing gum" and "swearing (this should be the boss's privilege)."



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Trumbo leads with 3 SAG nods

AWARDS SEASON

Screen Actors Guild Awards highlight 2016 Oscar hopefuls

The Hollywood blacklist drama *Trumbo* scored a leading three Screen Actors Guild Awards nominations on Wednesday, and sleeper contenders *Beasts of No Nation* and *Straight Outta Compton* entered the awards conversation in a real way when both were nominated for best ensemble drama.

Beasts of No Nation star Idris Elba was also nominated for best supporting actor, as well as for his role in TV's *Luther*. Other best ensemble nominees included *Spotlight*, which is emerging as the strongest candidate for best picture so far this season; *Trumbo*; and the housing bubble dramedy *The Big Short*.

The 22nd annual Screen Actors Guild Awards honouring the best film and television performances of the year will be presented Jan. 30.

Starry ensemble casts left out of the SAG nominations included Ridley Scott's *The Martian*, Quentin Tarantino's *The Hateful Eight* and David O. Russell's *Joy*.

While *Straight Outta Compton* was a box office and critical hit, its award season prospects were unknown. On Monday, the African-American Film Critics Association named the N.W.A. drama their best of the year, but it's been mostly overlooked by other critics' awards.

The nominations helped bring a murky awards season into a bit more focus, and SAG's choices highlighted a few underdog performances.

Leading female performance nominees included Cate Blanchett (*Carol*), Brie Larson (*Room*) and Saoirse Ronan (*Brooklyn*), all of whom have dominated awards buzz, but

also Sarah Silverman for the depression indie *I Smile Back*, and Helen Mirren for *Woman in Gold*, about an elderly Jewish woman looking to reclaim art once stolen by the Nazis. Mirren was also nominated for a supporting performance for *Trumbo*.

The lead actor nominees were a bit more expected, with recognition for Bryan Cranston (*Trumbo*), Johnny Depp (*Black Mass*), Leonardo DiCaprio (*The Revenant*), Michael Fassbender (*Steve Jobs*), and Eddie Redmayne (*The Danish Girl*).

In the supporting category, Christian Bale was nominated for *The Big Short*, Mark Rylance for the Cold War thriller *Bridge of Spies*, Michael Shannon for playing a predatory real estate agent in *99 Homes* and nine-year-old Vancouver native Jacob Tremblay was acknowledged for playing a child in captivity in *Room*.

Supporting actress contenders included London, Ont.'s Rachel McAdams (*Spotlight*), Kate Winslet (*Steve Jobs*), Alicia Vikander (*The Danish Girl*) and Rooney Mara (*Carol*).

Mara and Vikander both have significant onscreen time in their respective movies, which has led some awards prognosticators to criticize their supporting actress campaigns.

Nominees are selected by separate movie and TV nominating panels, each comprised of over 2,000 randomly selected SAG members.

Many members of the SAG movie panel also vote for the Academy Awards and as a result, the SAG nominees have traditionally served as a helpful indicator of potential Oscar acting nominees.

In a year when Hollywood's lack of diversity has become of critical concern following last Oscar's all-white acting slate, the individual performance nominees for movies remained largely monochromatic, save for Elba's supporting nominations.

The Jan. 30 SAG Awards will be broadcast live from Los Angeles on TNT and TBS.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS



Trumbo landed three Screen Actors Guild Awards nominations. HANDOUT



Straight Outta Compton is up for best ensemble cast. JAIMIE TRUEBLOOD/UNIVERSAL PICTURES VIA AP



Idris Elba is nominated for his role in the Netflix original film *Beasts of No Nation*. NETFLIX

ANGEL CATBIRD

Atwood authors graphic novel

Venerable Canadian novelist Margaret Atwood is expanding her repertoire in an unlikely direction as the author of a three-part superhero graphic novel.

Atwood will write the series entitled *Angel Catbird* for Dark Horse Comics, which is celebrating its 30th anniversary next year.

Atwood contacted the publication — based in Milwaukie, Ore. — on the advice of Hope Nicholson, who recently ran a successful Kickstarter campaign to create *The Secret Loves of Geek Girls*. Atwood contributed some original comic drawings to that all-female non-fiction anthology.

"Margaret brought her project to Dark Horse and we talked about it and we're very, very excited and quickly got it approved (by) her and started working on it," editor Daniel Chabon said.

Chabon described the project as "a pulp-inspired superhero story," about a scientist whose DNA becomes fused with an owl and cat.

"There'll be an antagonist in the story and a love interest. There'll be something different for everyone and a lot of cat puns, too. It's fantastic," Chabon said.

"This is a great book to add to our line. Of course if it does well, we'd like to do more," Chabon added.

The series will be illustrated by another Canadian, Vancouver-based artist Johnnie Christmas, with the first part set for release in September 2016.

Chabon acknowledged the challenge of working with an author of Atwood's calibre.

"It's funny because (Atwood) has been writing forever so it's a little intimidating sometimes to try to give her notes and stuff like that. It's like, 'how on Earth am I going to give notes to Margaret Atwood?'" Chabon said.

"But she (Atwood) is very receptive to notes. It's been a pleasure so far being able to work with her," he added.

TOR-STAR NEWS SERVICE

STACKED DECK
On the TV side, political drama *House of Cards* leads with three SAG nods including best drama ensemble.

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CANADA'S TOP TEN FILM FESTIVAL

Youth a big theme at fest

The majority of the Canadian movies picked for Canada's Top Ten Film Festival feature a youthful perspective.

Guantanamo's Child: Omar Khadr, by Patrick Reed and the Toronto Star's Michelle Shephard; Patricia Rozema's Into the Forest, starring Ellen Page and Evan Rachel Wood, and Andrew Cividino's Sleeping Giant are among the seven films on the list that focus on young protagonists.

In the case of Alan Zweig's HURT, about Steve Fonyo's tumultuous life in the 30 years since his 1985 cancer fund-raising run across Canada at age 19, the documentary forms a disturbing story of a tarnished legacy.

"The future is really bright for Canadian cinema," said TIFF artistic director Cameron Bailey. "For anyone who's looking to see what's going on right now in Canadian movies, I think I would look to young people."

Bailey noted that Sleeping Giant and Closet Monster are both by first-time feature filmmakers.

"We always want a lot more young people to watch Canadian films," Bailey add-

ed. "If this helps, then that's great."

The Top 10 features, shorts and student shorts for 2015 were chosen by panels of filmmakers.

"The shorts, I think, are certainly some of the best films we've got on our list this year and certainly some of the best films that have been made in this country this year," said Bailey.

Rounding out the Top 10 feature list is Anne Émond's

Les êtres chers (Our Loved Ones), Guy Maddin and Evan Johnson's The Forbidden Room and Philippe Falardeau's My Internship in Canada.

The festival runs Jan. 8 to 17, 2016 in Toronto, with select screenings also scheduled in Edmonton, Calgary, Winnipeg, Halifax and Ottawa.

For a full list of Top 10 films and screening schedules, go to tiff.net.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE



A wave of kidnappings of young boys shocks Montreal in Philippe Lesage's *The Demons* (Les démons). CONTRIBUTED

JOHANNA SCHNELLER WHAT I'M WATCHING

Peak Meta has arrived on the small screen

THE GRINDER, SEASON ONE, EPISODE THREE (CITY/FOX)

The Sanderson family — put-upon lawyer Stewart (Fred Savage), his wife Debbie (Mary Elizabeth Ellis), his brusque dad Dean Sr. (William Devane), and his heartthrob ex-TV-star brother Dean Jr. (Rob Lowe) are discussing Ray Donovan. (That's Ray Donovan the real TV series, which airs on a rival network, Showtime.)

This entire Grinder episode has revolved around someone erasing Ray Donovan from the family PVR. The words "Ray Donovan" have been uttered six times. Finally, they're watching the show. "Who's that?" Dean Sr. asks. "Ray Donovan!" the others holler.

Welcome to Peak Meta. The Grinder is the name of this show. It's also the name of the show-within-the-show that Dean Jr. starred in (and the name of his character).

It's a prodigal son story: To Stewart's eternal exasperation, people take Dean Jr. seriously as a lawyer simply because he



The power of TV is constantly referred to on *The Grinder*. HANDOUT

played one on TV. The power and ubiquity of TV are referred to constantly. And of course, all four actors are known from now-iconic series *The Wonder Years* (Savage), *The West Wing* (Lowe), *It's Always Sunny in Philadelphia* (Ellis) and *Knot's Landing* (Devane).

Not long ago, meta-TV was an erudite concept found only on haute-cable shows. (Who remembers the telefilm *The Positively True Adventures of*

the Alleged Texas Cheerleader-Murdering Mom, which made HBO hip in 1993?) Today it's as dated as the viewers who dived out of the way when they first saw Lumiere's train movie. Now that we barely exist off screen, meta is a sitcom punchline, the TV equivalent of Normcore.

Johanna Schneller is a media connoisseur who zeroes in on pop-culture moments. She appears Monday through Thursday.

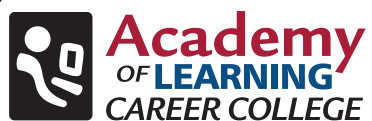
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GOSSIP BRIEFS

Dad on the dating market

One Direction member Louis Tomlinson tried — and apparently failed — to make things work with girlfriend Briana Jungwirth, but he's since broken up with her, according to Life & Style. Oh, and Jungwirth is due to give birth to his kid next month.



"He dumped her," a source says, adding that the pregnant makeup artist didn't see it coming. "They had been trying to work things out the past few weeks during his One Direction tour. He even introduced Briana to his mom." Maybe that didn't go so well? Anyway,

lest he be labeled a complete wanker, Tomlinson has "promised to love and support their child financially."

NED EHRBAR/METRO

Justin Bieber's Instagram crush

Justin Bieber shared an image of a mystery girl on his Instagram with the caption "Who is this!!" — which was quickly answered by his fans who, much like the flying

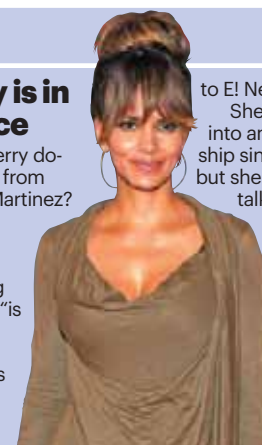
monkeys of the Wicked Witch of the West, set out to fetch the account info of the girl for Bieber. Turns out she's a 17-year-old from Spain named Cindy Kimberly, according to BuzzFeed.

"I so do not know how to deal with this," Kimberly wrote in an Instagram post. Bieber, likely scared off by the fact that his Instagram crush is only 17, carried on with his life (posting pictures of his Playboy bunny-themed pants, and a car). MATTHEW LEE/METRO

Halle Berry is in a good place

So how is Halle Berry doing since her split from husband Olivier Martinez? Funny you should ask.

Less than two months after filing for divorce, Berry "is in a very peaceful and happy place at this time" and is dating "here and there," according



to E! News. She hasn't gotten into another relationship since her breakup but she has been talking to a few people very lightly and going out when she has time. She enjoys being single and doing her own thing."

NED EHRBAR/METRO

MUSIC

Only copy of Wu Tang album goes unplayed



"I could be convinced to listen to it earlier if Taylor Swift wants to hear it or something like that."

Martin Shkreli

Obviously there was no chance any of us were going to be the eventual owner of Once Upon a Time in Shaolin, Wu Tang Clan's new album for which they only made one physical copy, but I didn't expect this.

The new owner is Martin Shkreli, the pharmaceutical CEO who rose to infamy earlier this year for jacking up the price of an AIDS medication to \$750 a pill.

And what's even worse? He apparently hasn't even listened to it yet, as he's saving it for when he needs a pick-me-up.

"I could be convinced to listen to it earlier if Taylor Swift wants to hear it or something like that," Shkreli says, according to Bloomberg. "But for now, I think I'm going to kind of save it for a rainy day."

You monster. NED EHRBAR/METRO

Trudeau: Political pinup romances Vogue readers

PUBLISHING

Sure the pics are sexy, but they could be even steamier

Ned Ehrbar
Metro | Hollywood



So Vogue has gone and included newly minted Prime Minister Justin Trudeau in its January 2016 issue, along with a striking portrait photo by Norman Jean Roy that dolls him up like an old Hollywood star. A sexy embrace with his wife, Sophie Grégoire-Trudeau, is also captured by Roy. In Canada, the photos and articles were widely shared



Justin Trudeau Is the New Young Face of Canadian Politics

VOGUE.COM

PHOTO CREDITS: SCREENSHOTS FROM VOGUE.COM/FACEBOOK/PINTEREST



Trudeau's wife, Sophie Grégoire-Trudeau (in an Oscar de la Renta dress), says of their first date. "At the end of dinner he said, 'I'm 31 years old, and I've been...'"

on social media (pictured). Now, discussions of Trudeau's looks are nothing new, but this feels like a whole

new level. But did we miss a major opportunity? Imagine, for a moment, that Vogue had gone with their usual shooter for all things easy on the eyes, Annie Liebowitz.

We could've maybe had something like her infamous photo shoot with Miley Cyrus for Vanity Fair.

And now that the image of Justin Trudeau coquettishly wrapped in just a bed sheet is planted firmly in your head, I'll leave you to enjoy the rest of your day.

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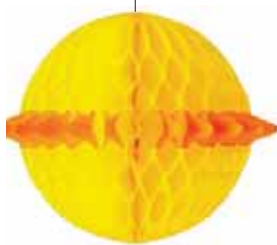
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STARRY NIGHT CHRISTMAS ORNAMENTS FROM OUTER SPACE



A planet or two
Banish from your mind those ugly reproductions of the solar system in science class. This paper planet will give your Christmas tree an air of elegance. (15 pounds/\$31 CDN from the Conran Shop)



A beaded astronaut
Who said that space explorers lacked style? Not the Conran Shop, which has dressed its astronaut in beads. (10 pounds/\$21 CDN)



A Star Wars tree
Star Wars is everywhere, in store windows, on TV, and even on your Christmas tree. You'll have to choose between the light side of the Force with this handsome Yoda in resin from Walmart, or the dark side with the shadowy Darth Vader. (\$7.47 US/\$10 CDN each)



Some festive robots
We can't have a space theme without a robot. These cute ones are multi-coloured and sparkly. (\$21.50 US/\$29 CDN for a set of three from Paper Chase)



A starry sky
And lastly let's not forget the star, which decorates our tree, but is also a celestial body floating in space. (\$3 US/\$4 CDN from Paper Chase)
AFP

How to get festive in a hurry

TIPS

Six ways to decorate for the holidays in 20 minutes

With the holidays around the corner, it's time to add a little festive decor to your home. But not everyone has the space, time or desire to fit a big tree or lots of holiday tchotchkes in their home. Here are a handful of ways to add simple holiday vignettes that are small-space-friendly in 20 minutes or less.

1 Greenery on a mantle art
Bring the outdoors in.
Gather some vases and fill with fresh winter greenery for an eye-catching mantle display. We used milk glass vases from a thrift shop but you can get a similar look using clear vases or by upcycling jars or bottles.
No mantle, but still love the look? Place the vases on open shelving or as a centerpiece on a holiday table.
Keep greenery fresh by cutting the stems at an angle before placing in water. Freshen water daily.

2 Glass on a shelf
Turn a pretty glass into a miniature winter wonderland — a snow globe, a tiny bottle-brush tree and

a sweet little fawn look whimsical inside a glass or jam jar. Make faux snow by using salt or sugar. Then add a fawn and a tree.
You can buy bottlebrush trees at craft stores (or even dollar stores) and the tiny fawns can be found at bakery supply stores and on Etsy.

3 Tray on a side table
A coffee table or side table is a great place to have fun adding some holiday decor. Gather seasonal items together on a tray. They don't have to be Christmas decorations. Think outside of the holiday box.
Try stacking some vintage books in pretty shades of green, adding a snow globe, some candles and a touch of greenery.
Vintage books can be found at thrift shops such as Goodwill or The Salvation Army. Add pieces with varying height, and layer with textures using natural elements like pine cones to keep it visually interesting.



Anchor it all on a tray to keep it organized and stylish.

4 Surprise bouquet
Tie some fresh greenery together with floral wire to create a mini bouquet.
Add velvet ribbon and tie it to the handle of a cabinet or a doorknob. So simple — yet so effective.
Little details like this add a special touch. That's what the season's all about.

5 Chalkboard on a wall
Go vertical.
Turn a chalkboard into a tree and trim it with holiday cookie cutters. String some baker's twine or ribbon through a cookie cutter and hang it on your wall using Washi (pretty paper) tape.
No chalkboard? Use Washi tape to create the outline of a tree on an empty wall and decorate with cookie cutter ornaments.

6 Decor by candlelight
Take a set of plain white candles and embellish them with touches of holiday greenery tied with string.
To help the greenery stay in place, use a little glue or spray adhesive and then wrap the string around the candle.
Be sure to use these candles in a place you can keep an eye on them.
TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE



No time (or space) for a big tree? Sometimes a little fresh greenery and cookie-cutter "ornaments" are all you need. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

The Habs placed winger Alexander Semin on unconditional waivers Wednesday for the purposes of mutually terminating his contract

Great team passes torch

WORLD JUNIORS

Canada's 2016 club has some mighty big skates to fill

When Connor McDavid returned to Air Canada Centre for the first time since winning world junior gold with Canada, he didn't let the disappointment of being injured stop him from soaking in the memories and spreading some joy.

McDavid sent former teammates a Snapchat picture of a world junior poster from one of Canada's most dominating performances in the nation's history. That undefeated Canadian team could go down as one of the best, but players are just starting to make their mark.

Ten players from that stacked group have already made their NHL debuts with a handful of others on the cusp of doing the same. McDavid is the headliner, but forwards Curtis Lazar, Anthony Duclair, Max Domi, Robby Fabbri, Jake Virtanen, Nick Ritchie and Nic Petan and defenceman Darnell Nurse are tangible evidence that the 2015 Canadian world junior team was as NHL-ready as any under-20-year-old group could be.

"The way we played that tournament, I think it was pretty apparent that there was a lot of really good hockey players on that team," Nurse said. "To say that this many guys were going to be playing in



Connor McDavid congratulates goalie Zach Fucale after defeating Slovakia in the 2015 semi-final. CLAUS ANDERSEN/GETTY IMAGES

the league this fast, I don't know if everyone expected (that). But playing alongside those guys, how professional they are, how much hard work went in, it's pretty clear why they're in the league."

Lazar, Canada's captain, was established with the Ottawa Senators before the tournament, and Duclair was a surprise member of the New York Rangers as a 19-year-old. Canada also had the No. 2 draft pick from 2014 in Reinhart



It was a very special team. It's good to see a bunch of them doing well in the NHL.

Connor McDavid

and projected No. 1 pick in McDavid, so it was obvious the team would be deep.

"We just looked at the lineup and we said, 'Wow,' and we said we can do something special, for sure," said Duclair, who's now a teammate of Domi on the Arizona Coyotes. "Not

every year you get a group like that, that can play in the NHL that year."

Even Hockey Canada officials didn't see this coming. They knew with an older group there was a good chance of winning on home ice and ending a five-year gold-medal drought

but couldn't predict so many players going right to the NHL nine months later.

"You like to think that part of their development is through the national junior team experience," Hockey Canada vice-president of hockey operations Scott Salmond said. "But you never know. For us, we need them to be ready for three weeks and they're exceptional for us and then where it goes from there no one knows."

THE CANADIAN PRESS

NHL IN BRIEF

Bruins hand Habs their third straight loss

Loui Eriksson and Landon Ferraro scored less than a minute apart in the third period as the Boston Bruins came from behind to beat the Montreal Canadiens 3-1 on Wednesday.

Patrice Bergeron also scored for the Bruins (15-9-3) in the third while Tuukka Rask made 32 saves for his 10th victory of the season.

Paul Byron scored for the Canadiens (19-7-3) in the first period. Mike Condon stopped 20 of 23 shots in defeat.

Montreal has now lost three consecutive games for the first this season.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Oilers place defenceman Fayne on waivers

The Edmonton Oilers have placed defenceman Mark Fayne on waivers.

The defenceman would be sent to the American

Hockey League's Bakersfield Condors if he clears.

Fayne is in the second season of a \$14.5-million US, four-year contract that carries a \$3.625-million cap hit. He has just one assist in 24 games this season for the Oilers, who are tied for the fewest points in the NHL.

THE CANADIAN PRESS



Mark Fayne

GETTY IMAGES FILE

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Undefeated Spartan prepares for battle

UFC

Canadian Theodorou to compete on Fight Night

Elias (The Spartan) Theodorou has passed every MMA test thrown at him so far.

The Toronto middleweight has won all 11 of his fights, including both UFC bouts since emerging victorious in The Ultimate Fighter Nations reality TV show. Charismatic and colourful, the 27-year-old is the kind of fighter the UFC hopes can help carry the flag north of the border.

Theodorou's credentials will be put under the microscope again Thursday when he faces Thiago Santos (11-3-0) on a Fight Night card.

The show is the first of three in as many nights in Las Vegas, culminating Saturday in UFC 194 when featherweight title-holder Jose Aldo meets interim champion Conor McGregor.

Thursday's main event features Rose (Thug) Namajunas (4-2-0), ranked third among female strawweights, against No. 7 Paige (12-Gauge) VanZant (6-1-0).

Santos, a former Brazilian army paratrooper, needed just 29 seconds in June to knock former Quebec minor-league hockey enforcer Steve Bosse senseless with a kick to the head. In January, Santos stopped Andy Enz in one minute 56 seconds, hurting him with a body kick before unleashing a barrage of punches.

Theodorou calls Santos the best striker "by far" he has faced — "and someone who can pull the trigger."



Toronto middleweight Elias Theodorou has won all 11 of his fights, including both UFC bouts since emerging victorious in The Ultimate Fighter Nations show. JACQUES BOISSINOT/THE CANADIAN PRESS

I want to put every single ounce of me when I'm fighting towards that goal of winning. I don't want to be sidetracked.

Elias (The Spartan) Theodorou

"A very tough opponent, who wants to take my block off," he said. But he believes the Brazilian is more vulnerable the deeper he goes into a fight. Santos' lone loss in the UFC since appearing in The Ultimate Fighter Brazil was a unanimous decision to highly touted Uriah Hall.

"I'm going to take him further and further into those deep waters and put on a pace he can't handle," said Theodorou, who has the grinding style and cardio to back that up.

Theodorou prepared for Santos by training in Long Island, N.Y., with middleweight cham-

pion Chris Weidman, who defends his title in Saturday's UFC 194 co-main event against Luke Rockhold.

The Canadian fighter had nothing but praise for Weidman and his training team, which includes noted striking coach Ray Longo and former UFC welterweight champion Matt Serra.

"He's the best in the world," Theodorou said of Weidman (13-0-0). "Most other places would want to shelter him, kind of keep him away from anyone. Whereas they're just wide-open.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

CFL

5 Eskimos named all-stars

The B.C. Lions, Edmonton Eskimos and Hamilton Tiger-Cats led all teams Wednesday with five selections apiece to the CFL all-star team roster.

Receivers Adarius Bowman and Derel Walker from the Grey Cup champion Eskimos were honoured, along with defensive tackle Almondo Sewell, cornerback John Ojo and defensive back Aaron Grymes.

Offensive selections included tackle Jovan Olafioye, who earned his fifth career all-star nod, running

back Andrew Harris and receiver Emmanuel Arceneaux of the Lions, and Ottawa Redblacks quarterback Henry Burris.



Derel Walker
THE CANADIAN PRESS

defensive backs Emanuel Davis and Craig Butler of the Tiger-Cats. THE CANADIAN PRESS

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RECIPE Baked Fried Chicken



PHOTO: MAMA VISENTE

Ceri Marsh & Laura Keogh
For Metro Canada

All the crunch of fried chicken but with much less fat in the final dish, this baked recipe is sure to become part of your regular roster!

Ready in
Prep time: 60 minutes
Serves 4 to 6

Ingredients

- 1/4 cup buttermilk (or add a tsp of vinegar to regular milk and let it sit for 15 minutes)
- 1 garlic clove, minced
- 8 or 9 chicken pieces (thighs and drumsticks)
- 1 1/2 cups whole wheat bread crumbs
- 2 Tbsp fresh thyme
- 1 1/2 tsp lemon zest
- Salt and pepper to taste

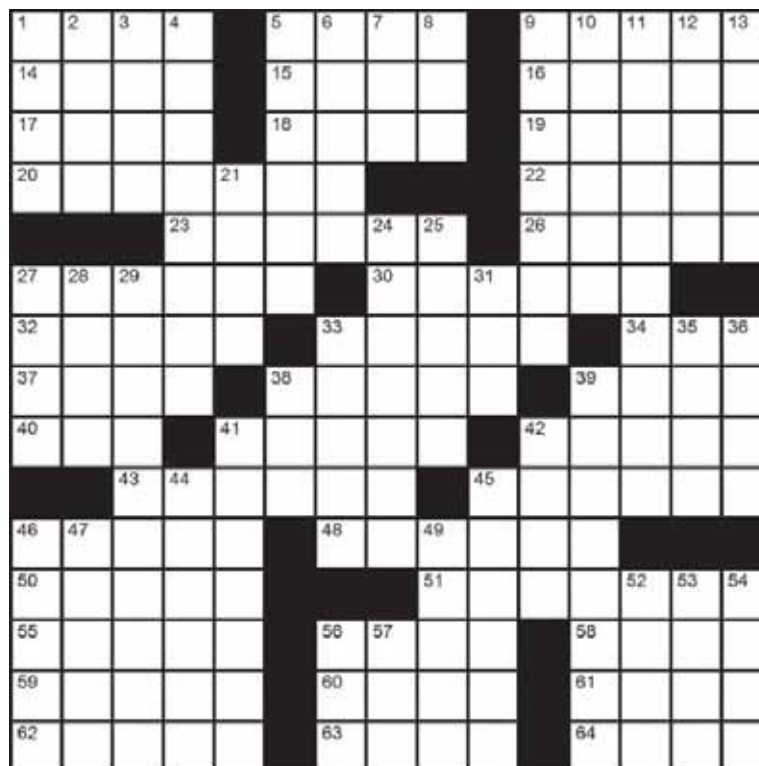
Directions

1. Combine the buttermilk and garlic together in a shallow pan container. Coat the chicken pieces thoroughly and cover with plastic wrap. Place in the fridge to marinate for a half an hour or up to over night. Turn the chicken pieces over at least once while marinating.
2. Preheat the oven to 400 F.
3. Mix bread crumbs in a bowl together with the thyme, zest and salt and pepper.
4. Dredge chicken pieces in the bread crumb mixture and place them on a baking sheet. Press bread crumbs onto the meat if some falls off.
5. Bake for 30 to 40 minutes until the outside of the chicken is deeply golden and the meat is cooked through.

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CROSSWORD Canada Across and Down

BY KELLY ANN BUCHANAN



ACROSS

1. Take a genetic sample
5. Rick Danko group, The _
9. Verity
14. Fork prong
15. Comic strip dog
16. Artwork like the original, informally
17. Famous volcano
18. Canadian pop crooner Mr. Forbes (More at #30-Across)
19. Masterpiece-maker's mount
20. Alberta village 45 minutes from Edmonton
22. Geared for rocking
23. Gorges
26. Feats
27. "Angel Eyes" singer Jeff
30. New debut album by #18-Across: ' _ Woulda Shoulda'
32. Oscars gr.
33. Awestruck in facial expression
34. Gear
37. Purr alternative
38. Hears, like herald angels
39. Neat
40. "The A-Team" star, _
41. Cougars
42. Giver
43. Soldier's uniform part
45. YouTube owner
46. Greek alphabet's 8th letter
48. Short _ (Curt brush-off)

50. Type of mil. mission
51. Away from, say, the manufacturing plant
55. Expect
56. Edge
58. Thought
59. "Wuthering Heights" (1939) star

- Ms. Oberon
60. Mr. Diggs
61. Tree varieties
62. Crowbar user, say
63. Vesper _ , "Casino Royale" (2006) character
64. Seven, in Sherbrooke

DOWN

1. Editor's 'let it stand'
2. "I'm _ You": Avril Lavigne hit
3. 'A' in AD
4. Almond paste is an ingredient in this 'wild' pastry: 2 wds.

5. Furniture retailer with stores across Canada
6. All in _ work
7. Puny parasite
8. Private Investigator, e.g.
9. Vintage sewing machine foot peddle
10. Squeezed the

- orange on the kitchen gadget
11. It's when the talker talks as if everything is a question?
12. Forested
13. Carries
21. " _ Leaving Home" by The Beatles
24. Mark _ : Shania Twain duettist on "Party for Two"
25. Drenches
27. Jon of "Mad Men"
28. 'E' of ER, briefly
29. Glass _ jars (Cotton ball holders, perhaps)
31. Parcel delivery co.
33. Willie of "Eight Is Enough"
35. Seacrest's show, split
36. Car wheel, British-spelling style
38. Buzz
39. Canadian footwear brand since the 1940s, Tender _
41. Horticultural holder
42. Politely tip one's hat
44. Star: French
45. Talented
46. The _ Charlie Chaplin's persona
47. Woodcutter
49. _-Noranda, Quebec
52. Laze
53. Office helper, commonly
54. The Middle _
56. Ocean, e.g.
57. James _ (Canadian body of water)

★ IT'S ALL IN THE STARS by Sally Brompton

Aries March 21 - April 20
Put all doubts and fears out of your mind and do what you think is best. You have a clear picture of what needs to be done and the courage to make it happen. Don't hesitate.

Taurus April 21 - May 21
As communications planet Mercury moves in your favour today you won't be in the least bit shy or tongue-tied. Let others know what it is you need and they will give it.

Gemini May 22 - June 21
If you need to make a new start now is the time to speak up and let others know what it is you intend to do — and that your intentions are serious. But don't get so serious that you forget how to have fun.

Cancer June 22 - July 23
You know that you have what it takes to succeed but others may need some convincing. You'll find it easier to persuade colleagues and employers, just remember that actions count more than words.

Leo July 24 - Aug. 23
Go your own way and do your own thing. And don't worry about others — the best way to win them over is to act like their approval means nothing to you.

Virgo Aug. 24 - Sept. 23
Someone will deliver unexpected news today but you should have seen it coming. No matter how much it might upset you just accept it and move on. What else can you do?

Libra Sept. 24 - Oct. 23
There is someone you should be seeing more of and this is the ideal time to ring them up and arrange to get together again. Don't drift apart so easily in future.

Scorpio Oct. 24 - Nov. 22
You have overlooked a small but important detail and the effects of that oversight will become apparent. Do not blame others for your failure. Be big enough to own your mistakes.

Sagittarius Nov. 23 - Dec. 21
For too long you've kept your aims and ambitions to yourself — let everyone know what you want and what you're doing to get it. Most people will be supportive. The few who are not you can safely ignore.

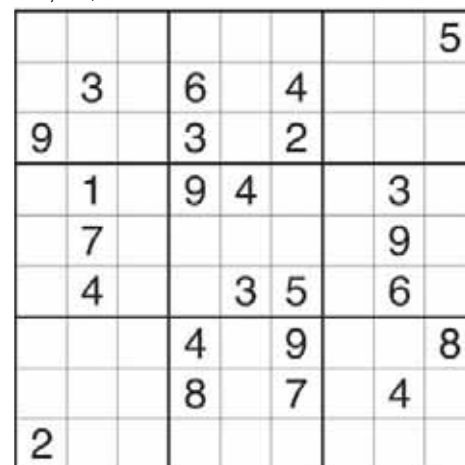
Capricorn Dec. 22 - Jan. 20
The doubts and fears of the past few weeks will fade away today as Mercury moves into your sign. The things you have been most anxious about will turn out to be the things you had least to fear.

Aquarius Jan. 21 - Feb. 19
Put principle before profit and don't worry if you seem to be the only one who cares. Others do care but few get as emotionally involved as you.

Pisces Feb. 20 - March 20
Difficult choices concerning your career will have to be made but don't do anything before you have consulted people you trust. It could be they can suggest less painful ways of making the changes you need.

CONCEPTIS SUDOKU by Dave Green

Every row, column and box contains 1-9



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STK# 8H018047

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STK# AKC38557

OUTLET PRICE **\$16,980**



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STK# 8FC35409Z

OUTLET PRICE **\$20,679**



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TRX4 OFF ROAD/SPORT**
STK# 6J105366

OUTLET PRICE **\$16,000**

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